

**Note:** This map is intended to provide you with backcountry campsite information to assist you with initial trip planning. It is not drawn to scale and should not be used in place of topographic maps for navigation.

The ice on Yellowstone Lake normally does not leave until late May or early June. See Boating in Yellowstone. In addition to site specific restrictions, some sites may be closed in the early season when lake levels rise and may flood sites.

# Yellowstone Lake

Yellowstone Lake is the second largest fresh water lake in the world that is above 7,000 ft. It encompasses 136 square miles, with 20 mile stretches of open water. Its 110 miles of shoreline provide access to some of the most beautiful wilderness in the park. There are only two backcountry trails near its shores, the Thorofare Trail along the east shore and the Trail Creek Trail which connects the Thorofare and Heart Lake Trails south of the South and Southeast Arms.

Power boats can be launched from ramps at Bridge Bay and Grant Village. If the water is calm, boaters can reach the arms in a relatively short time. In keeping with the serene and wild nature of the arms, boaters must reduce their speed to a maximum of 5 miles per hour once they enter the South and Southeast arms. Additionally, the last 2 miles of the South, Southeast and Flat Mountain arms are restricted to hand-propelled craft only.

Canoeing and kayaking on Yellowstone Lake is a memorable experience, but it is not without its dangers. The ice cover on Yellowstone Lake normally does not break up until late May or early June. The water temperature even in the summer, is typically 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Almost daily, sudden winds can create waves as high as 4 to 5 feet. These waves are choppy and very close together making it especially hazardous for small boats. Most commonly the winds are out of the southwest but at high altitudes and in thunder storms, the winds can shift at any time. See the Boating in Yellowstone article for more information.

Bears are frequent visitors along the lake and its 100+ tributaries. Three Bear management areas have closures and restrictions on travel in effect until July 15. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

Yellowstone Lake is the home of the premier surviving inland cutthroat trout fishery in North America. To protect this exceptional fishery, the National Park Service has established special regulations. See the park's fishing regulations and the article on page 5 for further information.

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Camp--Capacity-- No. People	Campsite Name and Restrictions
5E2 12	Terrace Point • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Boat access only • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E3 12	Brimstone Point • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E4 12	Brimstone Bay • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E6 12	Columbine Meadow N • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water • One night limit • Allows 25 stock.
5E7 12	Meadow Creek • Closed 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail access only • Allows 25 stock.
5E8 12	Park Point S • Closed 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E9 12	Park Point North • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5H1 6	Midshore • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 8/10 • Boat access only • First and last night only • Boats must be entirely removed from water • Limited tent space.
5L2 8	Monument Camp • Trail or boat access • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Site is 1/4 mile from lake shore.
5L3 12	Chipmunk Creek Outlet • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L4 8	South Arm Cove • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L5 12	Promontory Point • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L6 12	Promontory Shore • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L7 12	Promontory Bay • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L8 8	Promontory Tip • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored offshore • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 ft. Limited tenting area.
5L9 12	Promontory Saddle • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored off shore • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 feet.
6A1 12	Promontory SE • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor a sailboat.
6A2 10	SE Arm Inlet • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor sailboat.
6A3 12	Trail Point • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat. • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River.
6A4 12	Trail Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat. • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River.
7F1 8	Frank Island Bay South • Anchorage site only • Boat must be farther than 100' from shore, 300' from dock, and within land points defining double cove of the island • Boat must be self-contained • No shore landings allowed prior to 8/15, except at dock and picnic area • No camping on shore.
7F2 8	Frank Island Bay North • Same as 7F1.
7L1 12	Breeze Bay North • Caution for shallow water.
7L2 12	Breeze Bay • First and last night only • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
7L3 12	Breeze Bay South • Boat must be entirely

Camp--Capacity-- No. People	Campsite Name and Restrictions
7L4 12	removed from water. • Closed 5/15 - 7/10, then no travel from site until 8/15.
7L5 8	Ravine • First and last night only • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 8/15.
7L6 8	Wolf Bay • <b>3 party dock site</b> • Max. 8 people per party. • No travel from site 5/15 - 7/14 • Only two parties may camp on shore • Dock parties must be self-sufficient • Only 1 boat per party at dock, additional boats must be entirely removed from water. • No more than one canoe/kayak party.
7L7 12	Eagle Bay • <b>3 party dock site</b> • Same restrictions as 7L5.
7L8 12	Bodego Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Caution for shallow water in cove east of site.
7L9 8	Flat Mtn Arm N • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14.
7M1 8	Flat Mtn Arm S • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Limited tenting space.
7M3 12	Grizzly Bay • <b>2 vessel site</b> • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Self-contained anchored boats only • No cooking or sleeping on shore.
7M4 8	Flat Mtn Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14. • Good anchor site.
7M5 12	Plover Point • <b>3 Party dock site</b> • Same restrictions as 7L5.
7M6 12	Plover Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Rocky beach, boats must be removed from water or anchored offshore.
7M7 12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7M9 12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7N2 12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7N4 12	Gowdy Camp • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Off-trail or non-motorized Boat access only.
	Southwest Bay • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Access may be difficult in periods of low water. Off-trail or non-motorized Boat access only.

Definitions for dock and anchor sites:  
 \*Self-sufficient is a boat with a galley and a berth.  
 \*Self-contained is a boat with a galley, berth, toilet, and anchor. Self-contained boaters must stay at a designated campsite and have a backcountry permit for that site.

Shoreline Mileages		
from Sedge Bay to:	from Grant Village to:	
5H1 = 3.8	7M4 = 24	
5E9 = 6	7M5 = 25	
5E8 = 6.5	7M6 = 27	
5E6 = 9	7M7 = 27.5	
5E4 = 11.5	7M9 = 28.5	
5E3 = 13.3	7N2 = 31.5	
5E2 = 14.8	7N4 = 32.5	
6A4 = 18.5	5L3 = 35.5	
6A3 = 19.5	5L5 = 39.8	
6A2 = 21	5L6 = 41	
6A1 = 24	5L7 = 42.3	
5L9 = 26.5	5L8 = 44.3	
5L8 = 30		

Over 100 people have lost their lives in the park's cold lakes and streams. Water temperatures on Yellowstone, Lewis, and Shoshone lakes are in the 40's in June and only the 60's°F by late summer. Unless a person can get out of the water and get warm, survival time is minimal, even while wearing a life vest. In addition to frigid waters, sudden strong winds churn up 3 to 5 ft. waves. Boaters in canoes, kayaks, and other small craft must be aware of these hazards and plan accordingly. Here are a few recommendations for a safe trip:

- Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Begin early in the morning and avoid open-water crossings. If crossings become necessary, use good judgement & evaluate conditions. Open-water crossings are generally safer in early morning before winds come up.
- Get off the water during strong winds and lightning storms. Wait out rough water; often storms subside in the late afternoon and evening.
- Keep loads to a minimum; overloaded boats are dangerous and against regulations.
- Always carry a bailing device, extra paddle, throw ring buoy and/or rope and a sound producing device such as a whistle or air-horn.
- Practice capsize recovery techniques with all party members **prior** to your trip.
- A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, in good condition, is required for each person on board and shall be readily accessible while on the water. We suggest wearing them at all times.

*In the interest of resource protection, all park rivers are closed to boating except the Lewis River Channel between Lewis Lake and Shoshone Lake where non-motorized boats are permitted.* For further information on this waterway read the Shoshone Lake page.

**Motor-driven vessels** are permitted only on Lewis Lake, and most of Yellowstone Lake, exceptions include portions of the South, Southeast, and Flat Mountain Arms. Boats too large to be carried can be launched only at Bridge Bay, Grant Village, and Lewis Lake where there are ramps. Hand carried boats may be launched and removed at Sedge Bay. Towing water skiers and using jet skies are prohibited on park waters.

**Sailboat** users need to contact the Central Backcountry Office for specifics on launching.

**Boat permits are required for all boats and float tubes.** Permits can be obtained at any of the following locations: South Entrance, Lewis Lake Ranger Station, Grant Village Visitor Center, and Bridge Bay Marina. In addition, Canyon, Old Faithful, and Mammoth Visitor Centers provide non-motorized permits. Further information will be provided when you obtain your boat permit. All motorized boats must be registered in the state of principle use.

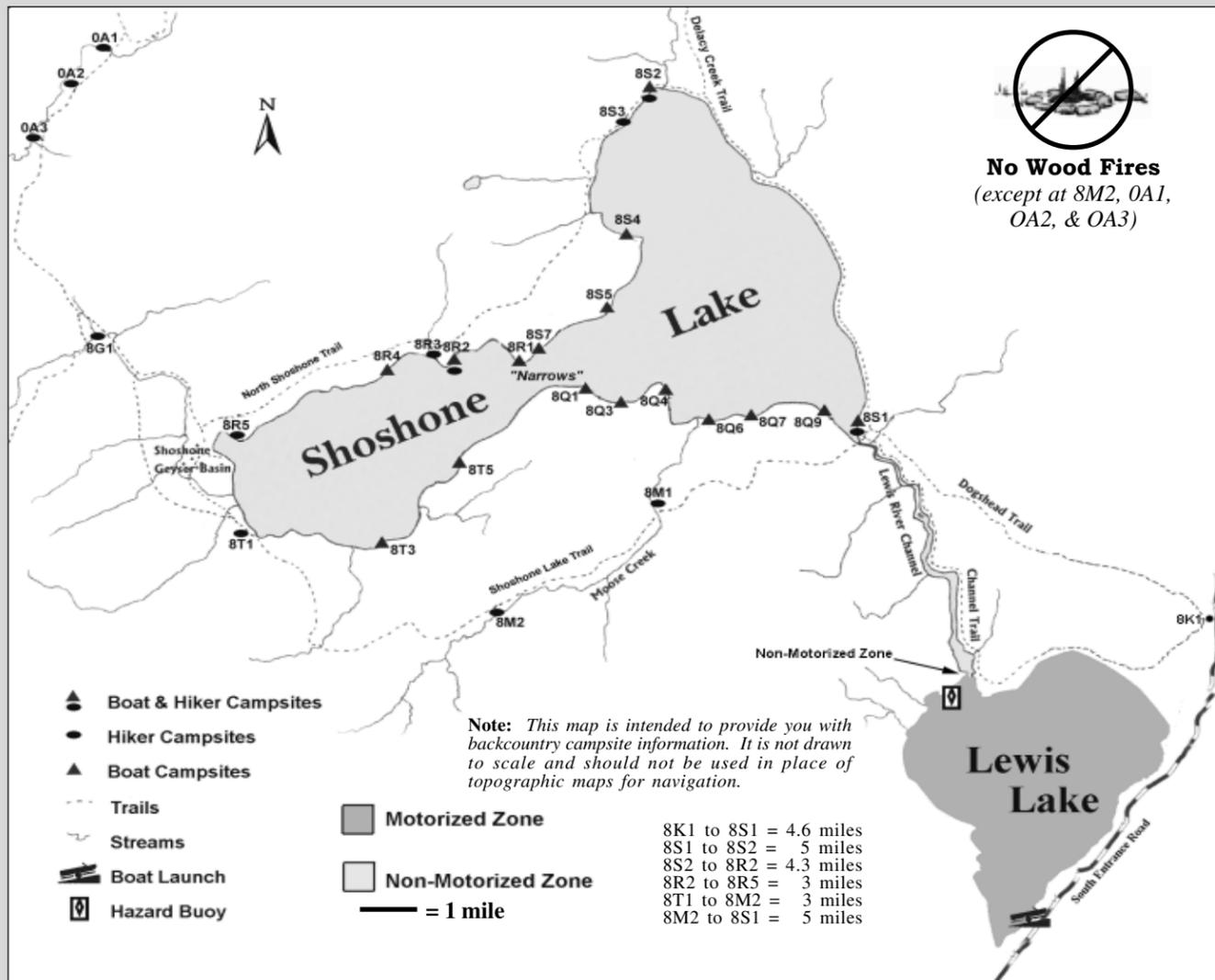
# Shoshone and Lewis Lakes

Camp--Capacity--

No. People Stock Campsite Name/Restrictions

Wood fires are prohibited at all these sites except 8M2, OA1, & OA2

8G1	12	0	Shoshone Meadows • Site located on Shoshone Lk Trail & isn't visible from the Bechler/Old Faithful Trail • 1 night limit.
8M1	8	15	Moose Creek #1
8M2	8	15	Moose Creek #2 • 2 night limit.
8Q1	8	0	S Narrow Point • Boat Access Only
8Q3	8	0	S Narrow Beach • Boat Access Only
8Q4	8	0	Moose Creek Point • Boat Access Only
8Q6	8	0	Moose Creek Outlet • Boat Access Only
8Q7	8	0	Moose Creek Beach • Boat Access Only
8Q9	8	0	Channel • Boat Access Only
8R1	8	0	Windy Point • Boat Access Only
8R2	8	0	Bluff Top • Trail or Boat Access
8R3	8	0	Cove • Trail Access Only
8R4	8	0	Flat Top • Boat Access Only
8R5	8	0	Basin Bay Point • Trail Access Only
8S1	8	0	Outlet • 2 Party site • 1 Trail Only and 1 Boat Access Only
8S2	8	0	DeLacy Creek • Trail or Boat Access
8S3	8	0	Coyote • Trail Access Only
8S4	8	0	N Grizzly Beach • Boat Access Only
8S5	8	0	S Grizzly Beach • Boat Access Only
8S7	8	0	North Narrows • Boat Access Only
8T1	4	0	Basin Beach • Trail Access Only • Limit of 1 tent.
8T3	8	0	Hillside • Boat Access Only
8T5	8	0	Tranquility • Boat Access Only
OA1	12	10	Lone Star
OA2	6	0	Upper Firehole
OA3	6	0	Firehole Springs



## Shoshone Lake Campsite Summary

- Permits for boating parties must be picked up at the South Entrance, Grant Village, or Bridge Bay backcountry offices
- Shoshone Lake is a "no wood fire" area
- All Shoshone Lake campsites allow a maximum party size of 8 with the exception of 8T1
- The following campsites can be accessed only by boat: 8Q9•8Q7•8Q6•8Q4•8Q3•8Q1•8R1•8R4•8S4•8S5•8S7•8T3•8T5
- The following sites can be accessed only by foot: 8S3 • 8R3 • 8R5 • 8T1 • 8G1 • 8M1 • 8M2
- The following sites can be accessed by boat or foot: 8S1 (two-party site) • 8S2 • 8R2
- All 8Q sites and the 8S1 boat site are available for only the first and last night of a trip
- Only 8M1 and 8M2 allow stock
- If you use a motor on Lewis Lake, you must remove the motor at the south end of the channel and leave it there

Shoshone Lake, the largest backcountry lake in the contiguous states, is a magnificent wilderness resource. It has primitive campsites, no road access, and only hand-propelled boats may reach its waters. Not far from the northwest shore lies one of the park's amazing geyser basins. Being able to experience a thermal area without fences and boardwalks is a rare but risky venture. With this freedom comes the responsibility to use great care to protect the fragile features and yourself. Remember it takes only seconds to destroy what took nature hundreds of years to make. Remember, also that there is no 911 or rapid rescue in the backcountry. Visitors must exercise consideration and caution.

Considering the beautiful qualities of this popular lake, it is no wonder that the campsites along its shores are occupied almost every night of the summer. In seeking to protect the vegetation, soil, water, wildlife, and delicate thermal features, and provide for the enjoyment of all the lake's visitors, we have found it necessary to strictly enforce our regulations. We hope that through education, cooperation and the use of "Leave No Trace" practices we can eliminate the need for further restrictions. Below are some requirements for using the area.

- **PARTY SIZE** is limited to eight people per campsite. This helps alleviate disturbance to wildlife and other campers, reduce soil compaction, and cut down on the amount of human waste. Groups larger than eight must secure multiple sites and be prepared to cook and camp at their individual sites. They are encouraged to paddle together, but they may not congregate at a single site.
- **WOOD FIRES** are not allowed. Past use of campfires and wood-gathering practices, combined with high levels of visitor use, caused significant and lasting impacts. A variety of gas stoves, lanterns, and heaters are widely available. Charcoal fires are allowed in fire pans or grills elevated above mineral soil, and must be used in the camp core. No wood may be used to supplement the charcoal and all coals and ashes must be packed out.
- **SANITATION** Maintaining an acceptable level of sanitation is a challenge in an area as heavily used as Shoshone Lake. Primitive pit toilets are provided at all campsites. Please do not diminish the limited space by putting food or any form of garbage in these toilets.
- **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)** regulations apply to Yellowstone waters. USCG approved wearable personal flotation devices (PFD) are required for each person. Children 12 and younger are required to wear their PFD at all times. PFDs should fit properly and be in serviceable condition. Boats must be sound and have a suitable bailing device.
- **HIGH WINDS** are almost a daily occurrence and create very challenging and hazardous conditions for paddlers. Arrange your itineraries to avoid open-water crossings in the afternoon. Travel early in the morning or late afternoon for easier and safer conditions. **We suggest you select a site on the southern shore of the lake for the first night of any trip.** Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Limit wind and wave exposure by using protected bays. If a crossing is necessary, evaluate conditions wisely and cross only at "the narrows" (see map). Place at least one experienced paddler in each boat and consider practicing capsizing recovery techniques with all party members prior to your trip. Always wear USCG approved PFDs and be prepared for extremely cold water.

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Minute Man Geyser in Shoshone Geyser Basin taken by William Henry Jackson during the Hayden Survey of 1872

"No other area of equal dimensions on the globe contains so many objects of wonder as Yellowstone Park. There are more hot springs and geysers in this area than in all the remainder of the world beside." ...Ferdinand Hayden

only at "the narrows" (see map). Place at least one experienced paddler in each boat and consider practicing capsizing recovery techniques with all party members prior to your trip. Always wear USCG approved PFDs and be prepared for extremely cold water.

- **EARLY SEASON.** Lewis and Shoshone Lakes usually lose their ice by the second or third week in June, and there is a high probability of early-season flooding at some sites. Camping is allowed as soon as the lake is ice free but reservations for Shoshone Lake sites may not be made for camping dates prior to June 10. To avoid making reservations that we most likely won't be able to honor, sites 8Q1, 8R2, 8S4, 8S5, 8S7 & 8T1 may not be reserved for camping on days before July 1. Sites 8Q6, 8Q7, 8T3 & 8T5 may not be reserved for camping on dates before July 15. If conditions allow, these sites may be available for "walk-up" permits prior to the listed dates.

- **PACKING YOUR BOAT.** It is very important to take time to properly pack and balance your load. Overloading your boat is not only unsafe it is unlawful. Using actual dry-bags will keep contents dry while at the same time provide flotation. Plastic bags are not the same as a dry-bags. A properly loaded boat using dry bags may float if capsized, while an overloaded, improperly loaded boat could sink if capsized.

- **PADDLING UPSTREAM ON THE LEWIS RIVER CHANNEL** is not possible for about the northern most mile of the channel. Prepare to wade in cold water while dragging your boat through a rocky-bottomed stream. Water shoes are strongly recommended. In early to mid-June, during spring runoff, expect depths of up to 3 - 4 ft. and extremely cold temperatures. In mid-July and August depth ranges are lower. Motors used to cross Lewis Lake are not allowed in the river channel. They must be removed and left at the south end of the channel.